

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 433

Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and selfless service to the United States have led to more than 1 million lives saved over the course of its long and storied 217-year history.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2008

Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and selfless service to the United States have led to more than 1 million lives saved over the course of its long and storied 217-year history.

Whereas, since 1867, the United States Coast Guard has been a vital piece of Alaskan history, providing life-saving medical treatment to native villages along its coasts, protecting its fisheries resources, and courageously rescuing those who face peril on the seas;

Whereas, in 2007, the men and women of the United States Coast Guard stationed in Alaska valiantly responded to 696 calls for assistance and saved the lives of 463 mariners in distress;

Whereas the actions of Petty Officer Willard L. Milam personify the proud history of courage and public service of the United States Coast Guard on the 10th of February, 2007, when, on a pitch-black winter morning, Petty Officer Milam launched aboard a Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter in near-zero visibility to locate the source of a distress signal approximately 50 miles southwest in Makushin Bay, Alaska;

Whereas Petty Officer Milam bravely deployed into storm tossed, 40-degree seas and swam to a life raft to find four survivors hypothermic and soaked in unprotected clothing;

Whereas Petty Officer Milam heroically overcame exhaustion and hypothermia to pull each survivor from a life raft and assist them through the raging seas, placing them into a rescue basket to be hoisted into the rescue helicopter;

Whereas Petty Officer Milam's courageous rescue off the coast of Alaska has earned him the 2007 Coast Guard Foundation Award for Heroism and the 2007 Captain Frank Erickson Aviation Rescue Award; and

Whereas, through extraordinary teamwork, airmanship, and courage, the crew of the Coast Guard rescue helicopter saved four lives from the treacherous Bearing Sea: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) honors the heroic accomplishments of Petty
3 Officer Willard Milam, who represented the finest
4 traditions of the United States Coast Guard during

1 the dramatic rescue of four survivors from the
2 treacherous Bering Sea;

3 (2) honors the United States Coast Guard,
4 America's lifesavers and guardians of the sea, for its
5 unflinching determination and proud 217-year his-
6 tory of maritime search and rescue resulting in over
7 1 million lives saved; and

8 (3) recognizes the tireless work, dedication, and
9 commitment of Coast Guard men and women, many
10 of them stationed in Alaska, far away from family
11 and friends, who commit themselves every day to
12 executing this noble mission hundreds of miles from
13 our shores with honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

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